

REMARKS

Claims 15-18, 21, 22, 30, 31, 39 and 40 have been allowed. Claims 1, 4-10, 13, 14 and 43 have been canceled. Thus, claims 15-18, 21, 22, 30, 31, 39 and 40 are now pending in the application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections in view of the amendments and comments presented herein are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claim 43 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph based upon recitation of "substantial." Claim 43 has been canceled, thus rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 1, 4-10, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph based upon the representation of compound (B). Claims 1, 4-10, 13 and 14 have been canceled, thus rendering this rejection moot.

In view of the claim amendments and comments presented above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 4-10, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bantu et al. (US 6,072,006) in view of Yamato et al. (US 6,004,724). Although Applicants do not agree that the claims are obvious over these cited references, claims 1, 4-10, 13 and 14 have been canceled solely to expedite allowance of the application.

In view of the claim amendments and comments presented above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

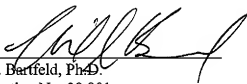
CONCLUSION

Because all of the rejected claims have been canceled, and the remaining claims are all allowable as noted in the Office Action at page 5, item 8, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for immediate allowance. If any points remain that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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